

Vampires?

by

GLORIA PALMER



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Illustrations by

Phillip Graves

Second Printing, 1968
by MAGIC, INC.

Published by

The Elders



Dear Ghouls:

Here's the act you've axed for...a routine you can really sink your teeth into and have fun presenting. With appologies to Mr. Charles Addams and various other horror-ibly nice people, I've developed this routine especially for you gals. (Of course, with slight revisions; you, Draculas, may use this routine too.)

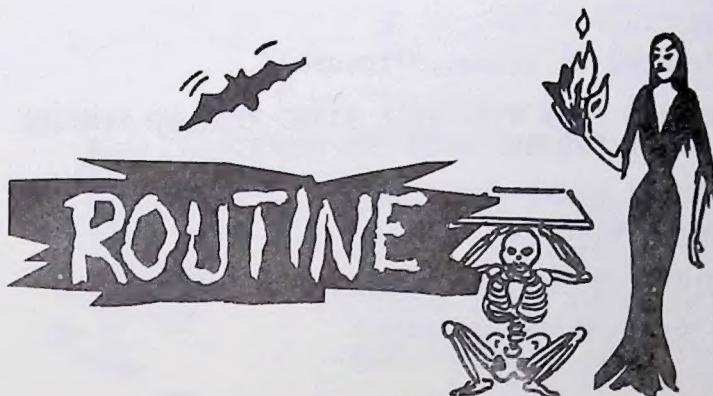
The monster-ously important factor in an act of this nature is the characterization. The effects or tricks are not strong enough in most instances to sustain out of context, but they don't need to be too strong...the personality of Vampira must be the dominate element.

At the end of this script you will find a section (I've already taken out the appendix) on make-up, music, costume, props, and a list of alternate effects to help you adapt the routine to your specific needs.

And remember, Ghouls, as the undertaker said as the coffin fell out of his wagon,
"This one will have
to be re-hearsed."

Vampira





MUSIC: Any popular dirge.

APPEAR IN A PUFF OF SMOKE OR RISE FROM PROP COFFIN (SEE "A GRAVE OPENING") CROSS TO CENTER STAGE WITH HOT DIARY IN RIGHT HAND AND LILIES IN LEFT HAND. FIX AUDIENCE WITH A SULTRY GLARE. HOLD LILIES TO YOUR NOSE AND PERMIT THEM TO WILT. TOSS THEM OFF STAGE.

"Unaccustomed as I am to public creeping, I feel that I have something of grave importance to say to all you ghouls. I have simply been dying for centuries to tell someone "How To Get A Man"..... From time to time I may have to refer to my diary....

OPEN "HOT DIARY" PRETEND TO READ A FEW LINES THEN IGNITE. LOOK UP AND SMILE, CLOSE BOOK.

"What a warm afternoon that was!"

SLOWLY STROLL TO LEFT STAGE NEAR WING.

"First of all, keep in easy reach of men..."

ARM SLOWLY REACHES OUT FROM WING TOWARD VAMPIRA AS SHE MOVES JUST OUT OF REACH. NOT NOTICING ARM ..Be on hand...(pause)

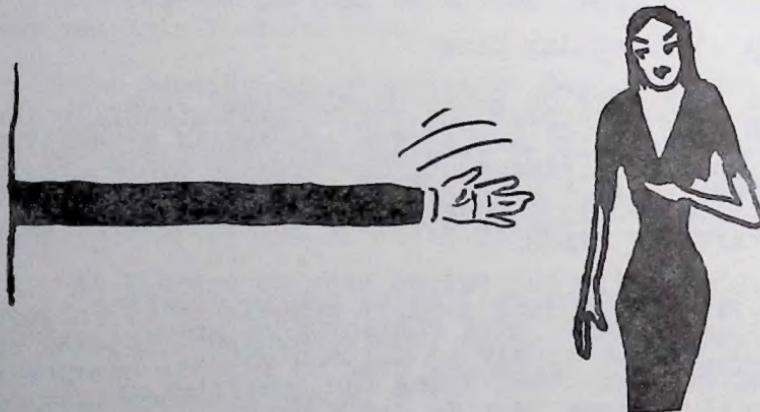
ARM EXTENDS ABOUT EIGHTEEN INCHES MORE TOWARD VAMPIRA, AND AGAIN SHE MOVES SLIGHTLY AWAY STILL NOT NOTICING THE ARM.

"..keep in touch.." (pause)

ARM EXTENDS FROM WING FULL EIGHT FEET AS VAMPIRA MOVES STILL FURTHER FROM ITS REACH.

"..but don't be too eager to fall into her clutches."

ARM QUICKLY WITHDRAWS. VAMPIRA MOVES TO TABLE.



"You've heard that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach. Well candy may be dandy, but liquor is quicker."

PICK UP PITCHER

"Personally, I prefer a Bloody Mary..

PULL HAND FROM PITCHER AND SHOW.

"Using real Mary, of course. Let Me demon-strate."

REPLACE HAND IN PITCHER AND CALL OFF STAGE.

"Oh Frankie...Bring your Stein."

ASSISTANT ENTERS WITH AN OVER SIZED GLASS.
VAMPIRA POURS RED LIQUID INTO GLASS.



"Quickly, Dear, drink it
before it clots."

ASSISTANT DOES A "DOUBLE TAKE" AT THIS REMARK AND FEIGNS REVULSION. VAMPIRA TAKES GLASS FROM HIM AND OFFERS IT TO AN INVISIBLE ASSISTANT STANDING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF HER.

"Oh never mind. Claude will drink it."

VAMPIRA LOOSENS THE STRAW WHICH PERMITS THE LIQUID TO VISIBLY DIMINISH IN QUANTITY.

"That's a good boy Claude."

THE SOUND OF A BODY FALLING IS HEARD. (A HEAVY STOMP OFF STAGE). IMMEDIATELY BOTH VAMPIRA AND THE ASSISTANT LOOK AT A PRE-DETERMINED SPOT ON THE FLOOR WHERE CLAUDE HAS FALLEN (?).

"Frankie, take Claude back to his slab."

ASSISTANT PICKS UP THE IMAGINARY BODY OF CLAUDE AND DRAGS IT OFF STAGE.

"Excuse me Ghouls.."

VAMPIRA PICKS UP A VOO-DOO DOLL AND A LONG PIN OR SPIKE. WITH BROAD GESTURES SHE IMPALES THE DOLL AND A LOUD MADE SCREAM IS HEARD OFF STAGE.



" Lastly, Ghouls, dig up a man with a head on his shoulders. After all, we do want to get a head, don't we? And here is a horror-ably good way to do it."

VAMPIRA DISPLAYS HEAD ILLUSION

"Oh Frankie"....

MALE ASSISTANT ENTERS AND PUT HIS HEAD IN THE ILLUSION. MUSIC UP. HEAD ILLUSION IS PERFORMED IN PANTOMIME TO MUSIC. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE EFFECT, **VAMPIRA RELEASES ASSISTANT, KEEPING HIS SKULL.**

"There goes an empty head if I ever saw one."

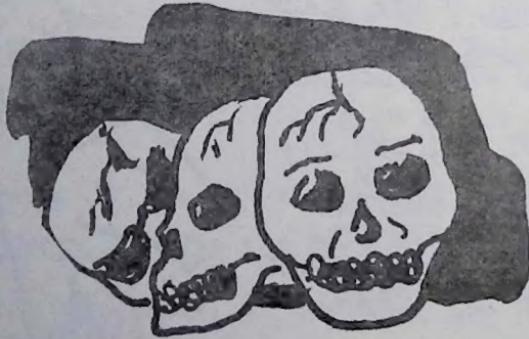
ASSISTANT LEAVES STAGE.

"But it does make a nice momento to put in my hope chest."

CROSSES TO OTHER TABLE ON WHICH RESTS A MANIKIN'S CHEST, **VAMPIRA DISPLAYS CHEST TO BE EMPTY.**

"It may look like I have no hope in my chest, but remember, Ghouls, I speak from experience, because....

BEGIN LIP SYNC TO RECORD, PRODUCING A SKULL FROM THE CHEST FOR EACH HUSBAND.



FAST CURTAIN



A GRAVE OPENING

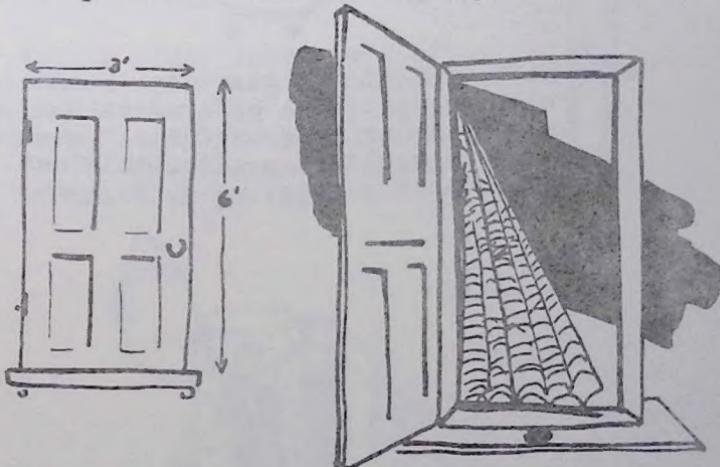
EFFECT: A heavy door is seen on stage

Slowly it creaks open revealing a cobweb interior. Suddenly, there is a flash of flame and there stands

VAMPIRA!

CONSTRUCTION: The doorway is merely $\frac{1}{4}$ inch plywood veneer painted to appear massive. The door is painted to resemble a heavy oak portal. Hanging behind this frame is a curtain of black velvet.

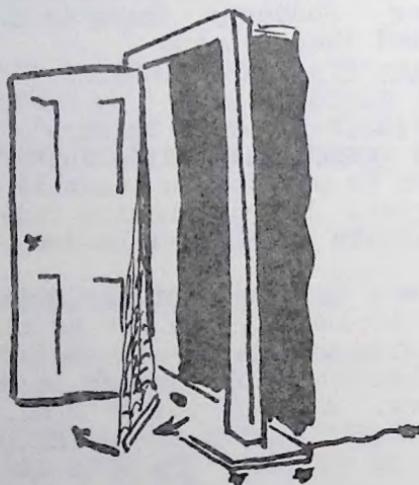
The cobweb is simply silver gift twine knotted to look like a web as illustrated. Behind this web is a triangle of black velvet behind which Vampira is hidden from view. A flash pot in front of this set-up is all that's necessary.



(This entire illusion may be made of cardboard reinforced with pine slats.)

PREPARATION: The door is closed and the black triangle of velvet is in place. Vampira crouches behind the opaque web. Flash pot is loaded.

PRESENTATION: After a few bars of music the flash pot is set off and under cover of the smoke, Vampira rises and whips the black velvet triangle behind her and drops it on the floor. As she moves forward the floor batten to which the web is attached is swung clear.



ALTERNATE OPENING: A black box (cardboard) with curtain rods affixed as handles would make a nice coffin, from which Vampira could step after thirteen strokes of a gong.

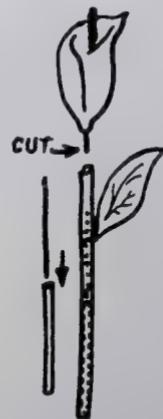


WILTY LILY

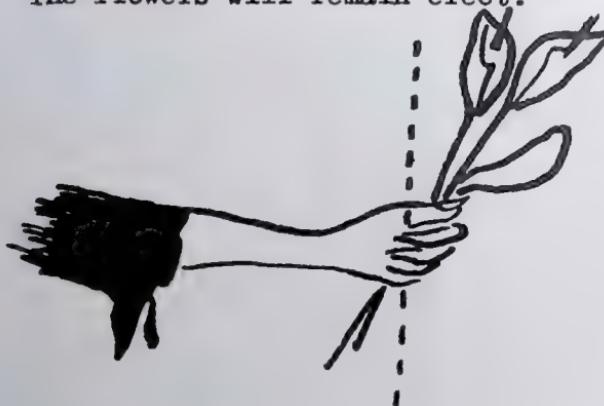
EFFECT: A bouquet of three lilies are carried forward and as they are held to Vampira's nose, they wilt one at a time.

CONSTRUCTION: The lilies are Dime Store items which have been prepared by removing the flower from the stem and cutting the wire which runs the length of the stem. A six inch length of brass tubing (obtainable at Hobby Shops) is inserted in the lower end of the stem.

Now an eight inch piece of coat hanger wire is placed inside the stem so it will move freely in the tube. The flower is replaced and cemented in position.

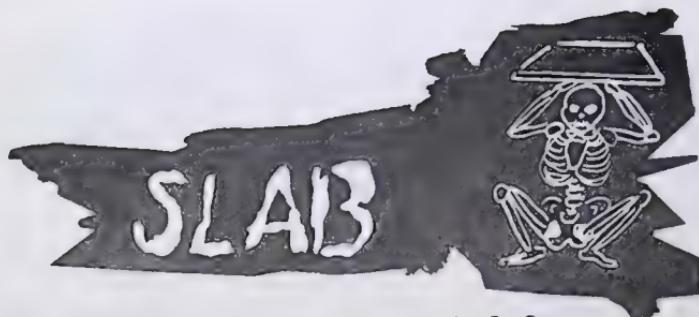


PREPARATION: Hold the lilies with their flowers down, thus letting the coat hanger wires fall from the tubes against the flower. Now swing the entire bouquet slowly ALMOST vertical. The flowers will remain erect.

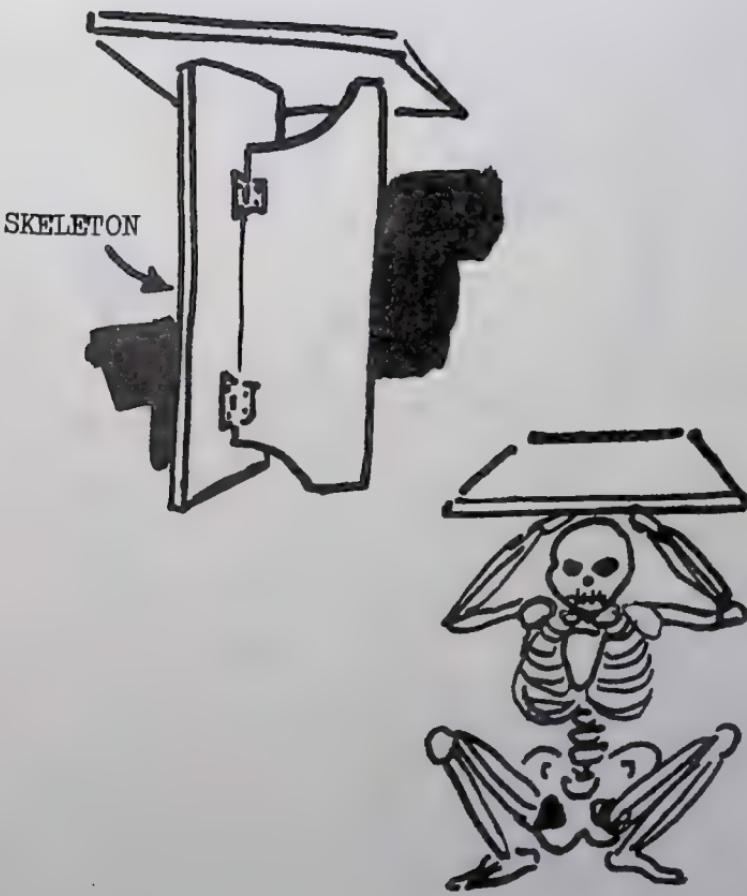


PRESENTATION: To wilt the lilies hold them perfectly vertical and shake them slightly. This will permit the coat hanger wires to fall back into the tubings and leave the flowers supported only by the flexible plastic stems, which will bend under the weight of the flowers.

NOTE: If the plastic stems become very cold they will not be as flexible as desired. Also, should any difficulty be experienced in making the wires fall into the tubes, you may hold the bloom with the other hand, pulling or stretching the stem a little. This will free the wire and let it fall back into the tube.



THE TABLES may be constructed from $\frac{1}{4}$ inch plywood upon which has been affixed a Halloween skeleton. You may merely lean this front against your night club tables or get fancy and cut them out with a Jig Saw and make a back support as shown.

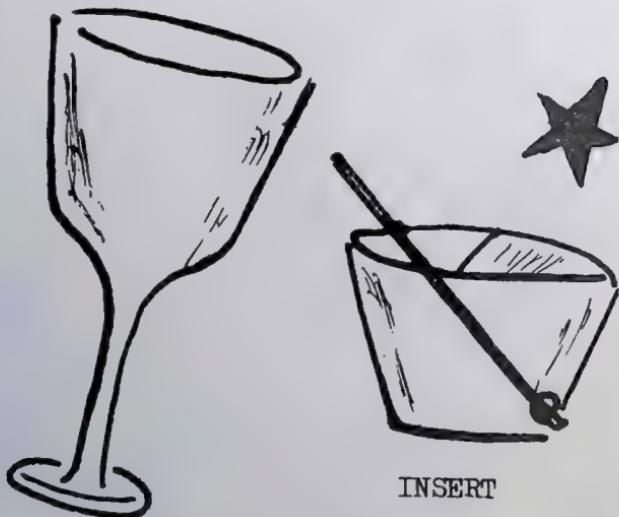


BLOODY MARY

EFFECT: A glass is filled with liquid and it visibly diminishes in quantity.

CONSTRUCTION: A plastic insert is made which is $\frac{1}{2}$ inch smaller in diameter than the inside diameter of the glass. A half cover is cemented to the top of this insert to facilitate pouring liquid between the walls of the glass and the insert.

A small hole at the bottom of the insert lets the liquid seep into the insert, thus making the level recede. This hole is plugged with a plastic straw until the proper moment.



INSERT

PREPARATION: Plug the hole in the insert using a bit of magicians' wax if necessary.

PRESENTATION: Pour liquid into glass so none enters the insert. Move the straw slightly and the liquid will enter the insert thru the hole, effecting an apparent diminishment.

HOPE CHEST

EFFECT: The upper torso or chest is displayed as a "Hope Chest". It has a door in its front and one in its back. These doors are opened and the interior displayed empty. Immediately, a number of skulls are removed.

CONSTRUCTION: Purchase a Manikin display torso and saw doors in the front and back. Hinge one door to the right and the other door to the left as illustrated.

A load chamber may be attached to the back door and the chest exhibited as illustrated.



HOWEVER, the skulls may be concealed in the arm sections of the torso also.





THE ARM is a false hand attached to a length of hinged board. The board is composed of two four foot lengths of white pine one inch thick and four inches wide. It is covered with black cotton sleeve and a white cuff.



BLOODY MARY should be red colored water to which has been added a few drops of OOM or milk to make it opaque.

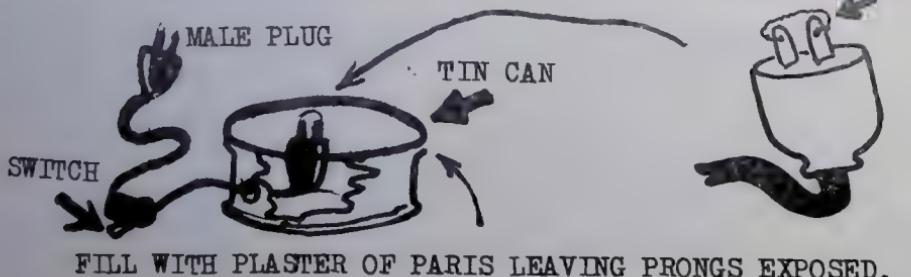
VOO-DOO DOLL is a rag doll with a few hat pins stuck in it.

THE PITCHER is ungimmicked and opaque from a Variety Store.

REAL MARY is a rubber hand available at Magic Stores or Joke Shops.

HUSBANDS are seven rubber skulls obtainable from Magical Warehouses.

FLASH POT may be a commercial model or constructed as shown below.



SKULL DUGGERY

THE HEAD ILLUSION used in the original Vampira Act was Abbott's "Life Or Death Illusion". Other illusions which may be used are:

Abbott's "Phantasmo", "Vampire", "Head Cremation", "Arrow Head", "Invulnerable Lady" etc.

Tannen's "Dagger Chest"

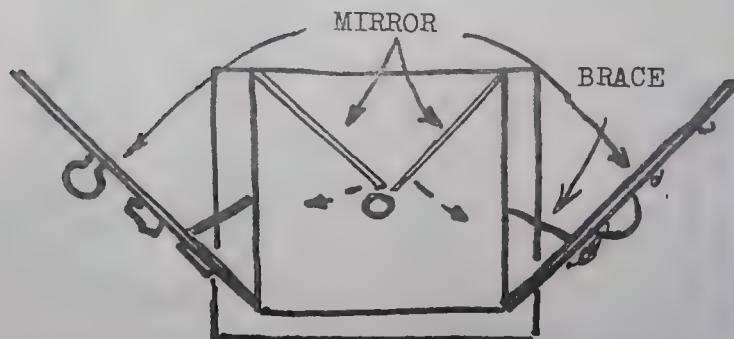
Grant's "Victory Carton Head Box",
"Pincushion Head"

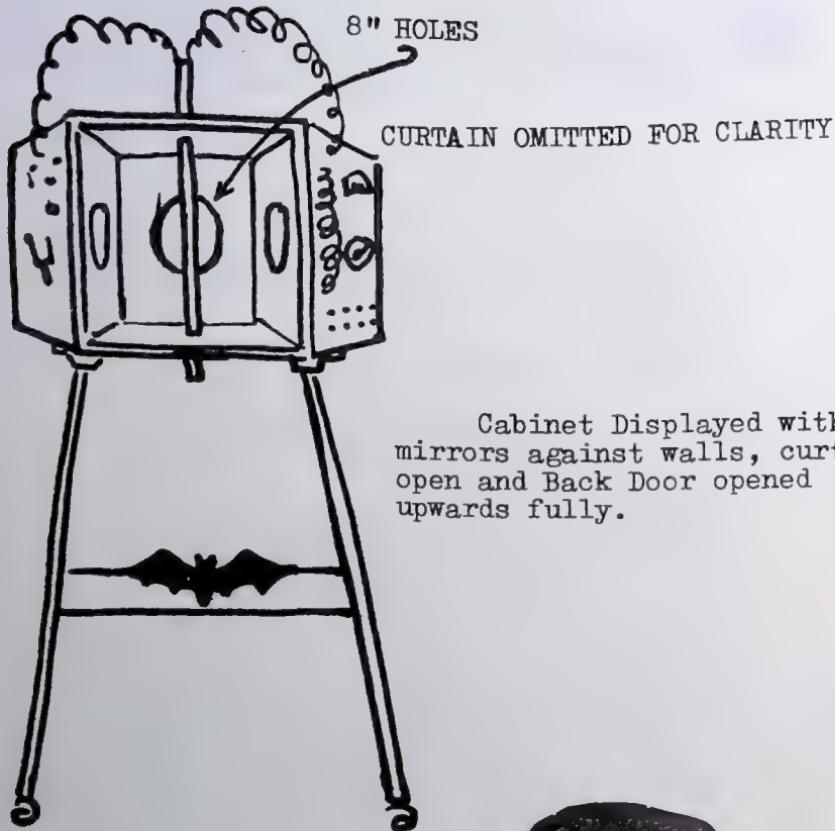
Karson's "Maiden's Sacrifice"

OR

Construct a periscopic head chest as illustrated below.

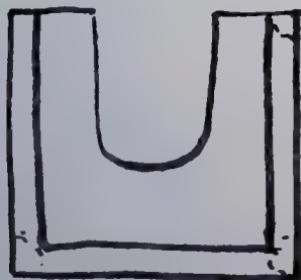
Mirrors meet at a 45 degree angle in front of assistants face and reflect into the mirrors (set at a 45 degree angle also) behind each control board thus reflecting the curtains in back.





Cabinet Displayed with
mirrors against walls, curtain
open and Back Door opened
upwards fully.

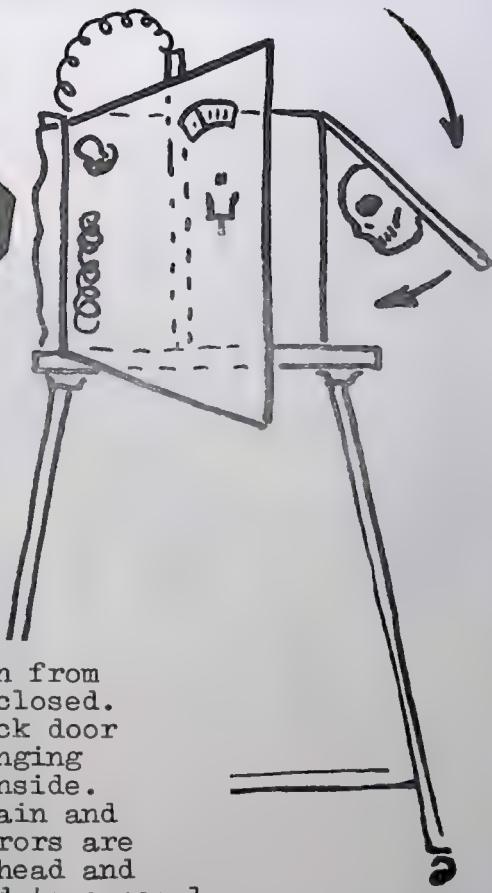
CABINET MEASURES 14 inches
SQUARE CONTROL WINGS 14" x 16"



BASE
16" x 16"



SKULL ON BACK DOOR



Head placed in from rear and curtains closed. Immediately the back door is swung down, bringing the rubber skull inside. Reach in thru curtain and remove skull. Mirrors are swung in front of head and the rod is inserted to conceal the vertical juncture of the mirror edges. Now curtain may be opened to show head gone.

Operation Reversed to Permit withdrawal of head from Cabinet.

18

SHROUD

BLACK WIG

FALSE NAILS



JOLLY ROGER
HANDKERCHIEF

TIGHT BLACK DRESS



EMBALMING

BLACK WIG

BASE COLOR - Clown
White Grease

HIGHLIGHT ON - Nose,
Cheek Bones, and
Chin. Clown
White.

SHADOW ON - Cheeks,
Temples, Sides of
Nose, Under Eyes,
and on Throat.
Blue liner.

LIPSTICK - Very bright
red, lined with
a thin black line.

LINER - Black.



SHADOW AREAS



HIGHLIGHT AREAS



DIRGEY SONGS

MUSIC: A Night On Bald Mountain
 Dance Macabre
 Prelude in C Sharp Minor

RECORDED MUSICAL BACKGROUND:
 Capitol T968 "Space Escapades"
 Liberty #3084 "Fantastica"

RECORD TO STUDY VOICE INFLECTION:
 Warner Bros. #1332 "Spike Jones
 In Hi-Fi"

LIP SYNC MUSIC FOR FEMALE VOCALS:
 Mirroronic #SP6002 "Wet Toe
 In A Hot Socket" Phillis Diller
 To Keep My Love Alive

LIP SYNC MUSIC FOR MALE VOCALS:
 Dot #3114 "Wicked Women" Jim Lowe
 To Keep Her Love Alive



